



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Obama Administration Names Jasper Schneider to Serve as State Director for Rural Development in North Dakota**

WASHINGTON, September 22, 2009 – The Obama Administration today announced that Jasper Schneider will serve as North Dakota State Director for Rural Development at the USDA.

“Jasper Schneider will be an important advocate on behalf of rural communities throughout the state and help administer the valuable programs and services provided by the USDA that can enhance their economic success,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Since 2007, Schneider has been a State Representative in North Dakota representing the 21<sup>st</sup> district. Prior to being elected to the House, Schneider has also been serving as an Attorney at Law for Schneider Law Firm; specializing in Social Security Disability and Worker’s compensation. In 2008 he ran a statewide race for Commissioner of Insurance, and narrowly lost his bid in one of the state’s closest elections. From 2005-2008, he was an Adjunct Professor at Minnesota State University Moorhead teaching Mass Media Law. Before that, Schneider worked for Cisco Systems as a Marketing Business Analyst, recruited straight out of college to help successfully launch new innovative products for a new generation of IT users. He earned his J.D. from Hamline University School of Law in 2004 and received his B.A. in 2000 from Jamestown College. He is married to Kimberlee (Ibach) and has two children.

Rural Development administers and manages over 40 housing, business, and community infrastructure and facility programs as laid out by Congress through a network of 6,100 employees located in 500 national, state and local offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of over \$114 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

The USDA provides leadership on food, agriculture and natural resources and touches the life of every American. Reflecting President Obama’s commitment to expanding economic opportunities in rural America, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and the USDA are working to enhance availability of broadband, promote the development of renewable energy, to conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment, and promote a sustainable, safe, sufficient and nutritious food supply.

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